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U.S. Asks to Question Barbie

PARIS, May 27 (AP)—The U.S. Justice Department has asked for permission to interrogate Klaus Barbie, the Nazi war criminal jailed in Lyons, about his possible ties to the United States, the French Justice Ministry said today.

The U.S. Justice Department is probing whether U.S. intelligence agents shielded Barbie after World War II or helped him flee from Europe to Bolivia, as former intelligence officers have claimed.

Barbie, 69, known as the "Butcher of Lyons" for his activities as head of the Gestapo there during the German occupation of France, was extradited from Bolivia in February and is awaiting trial for "crimes against humanity."

He has been accused of sending thousands of French citizens, many of them Jews, to death camps and murdering French resistance fighters. A spokesman here predicted the request would be granted.